



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 24, 2008

### **H.R. 5680**

#### **An act to amend certain laws relating to Native Americans, and for other purposes**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on September 25, 2008*

H.R. 5680 would amend various laws concerning Native Americans. CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost less than \$500,000 a year, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting H.R. 5680 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 5680 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would benefit several Indian tribes.

The legislation would authorize the appropriation of between \$200,000 and \$350,000 annually for the Secretary of the Interior to make payments to the reservation of Colorado River Indian Tribes for a new local energy department. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost about \$300,000 annually.

The remaining provisions of H.R. 5680 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Those provisions would:

- Authorize the Secretary to take lands into trust for the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida;
- Allow certain tribes to lease lands held in trust for more than 25-year terms;
- Permit the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan to lease, transfer, or convey, without the approval of the Secretary, any interest in land not held in trust by the United States.;
- Amend various provisions of the Indian probate code relating to land transfers; and
- Codify a U.S. Circuit Court ruling that a private school in Hawaii can maintain its admission policy that gives preference to native-born Hawaiians.

CBO trasmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 5680 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 14, 2008. The two versions of the legislation include similar provisions. However, CBO's estimates of costs are different for the section relating to payments to the tribes for the new energy department. Payments under the House version would increase direct spending by \$300,000. Payments under the Senate version also would total about \$300,000 a year but would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

On October 24, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1193 as passed by the House of Representatives on September 29, 2008. H.R. 5680 and S. 1193 are similar, and CBO's estimates of their costs are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Leigh Angres. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.